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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Information on KVP Units in Zittau.¹

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EVALUATION 25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 24 November 1952

REFERENCES

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REMARKS

ILLEGIB.

EVALUATION	25X1	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1	25X1
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25X1 1. Between 5 September and 18 October 1953, the former Ludwig Kaserne in Zittau quartered about 4,000 KVP personnel. Through discharge and the transfer of a battery, the strength of the unit had decreased by an estimated 1,700 men. The battery involved moved in the night of 5/6 September, allegedly to Loebau. Part of the discharged soldiers re-enlisted for another three years. The soldiers observed at the installation wore red-bordered black and some of them also red and blue collar patches. 1

2. On 18 September, four trucks each towing an 85-mm AA gun were observed entering the installation. The trucks

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were occupied to capacity by KVPs wearing fatigues. The morning of 21 September, four trucks towing model ZIS-3 76-mm field guns and loaded with about 80 men left the barracks installation. About 6 p.m. on 4 October, 15 x 76-mm field guns, 3 x 85-mm AA guns and 23 prime movers were being entrained at Zittau railroad station, while 8 boxcars were being loaded with KVP personnel. The train was first dispatched to Dresden. About 10 p.m. on 6 October, eight rocket launchers, which had arrived by train from Goerlitz, were being detrainned. The canvas-covered guns were taken by KVP soldiers to the Ludwig Kaserne. On 14 October, [redacted] trucks each towing a model 38 122-mm field howitzer and each loaded with about 10 soldiers enter the installation. About 4 a.m. on 18 October, 5 model 38 122-mm field howitzers and four trucks were being entrained at Zittau railroad station. At the same time, two boxcars were loaded with 40 to 50 KVPs

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3. From the middle to the end of September, mostly aiming and loading was practiced by artillery soldiers in the billeting area of Ludwig Kaserne. In mid-October, 40 to 50 men were seen training with four rocket launchers of type M-13.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. Artillery and AAA units of Mechanized Bereitschaft Dresden which was organized from component units of former TV 3000 are stationed in Zittau. A transfer of artillery units from Zittau to the 3d Mechanized Kommando in Loebau was also reported [REDACTED]. The re-enlistment of discharged personnel reveals the urgent personnel requirements of the KVP and the continuing build-up of the East German military establishment.

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2. [REDACTED] Comment. The 85-mm AA guns had previously belonged to the medium AAA regiment of Armeegruppe Nord. The equipment was probably consigned to the artillery battalions of the mechanized Kommandos stationed in Frankenberg and Marienberg. The rocket launchers observed probably arrived from the USSR via Goerlitz. These were the first rocket launchers to have definitely been observed with a KVP unit. The destination of the 122-mm howitzers and the 85-mm AA guns has not been determined.

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